

You Shall Receive Power: Leaning into the Forgotten God
How Do I Know If I'm Filled with the Spirit?

Ephesians 5:14-21

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, June 4, 2017

Ephesians 5:14-21 commands us to be filled with the Spirit and surrounds that command with what that looks like.

I. You Have Joy that's Unrelated to Your Circumstances Because It's Fixed On Greater Realities

Ephesians 5:19 "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

How you can tell if your joy is Spirit-filled joy? It's a joy that lasts and continues regardless of circumstances, even when things are going poorly.

When you're filled with the Spirit you see more of reality, not less, and that bigger reality is essential for joy.

In **Ephesians 1:15-23**, Paul is talking about what the Spirit does in you when He fills you. Paul's asking God to make the truth shine for them in a way that changes how they respond to their present circumstances.

Many of you may desperately want God to change your circumstances, but God, by His Spirit, is more interested in changing you in the midst of those circumstances.

This joy Paul's talking about has two dimensions. There's a vertical joy between you and God and a horizontal joy that spills onto those around you.

A. When You're Filled with the Spirit there's a Personal Joy Between You and God Because He is So Real to You

Ephesians 5:19 describes someone who communicates with God. They have a real sense of God's presence in their life and live with such an awareness and delight of His presence that they would sing about constantly if they could.

Being filled with the Spirit means God is near for you and you know it.

B. When You're Filled with the Spirit that Personal Joy Can't Stay Private But Often Goes Public and Spills onto Those Around You

Awareness of God in your life changes how you live and treat others.

V. 19 talks about 'speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.' Spirit-filled people edify those around them, because their personal joy in God regularly spills over onto those around them.

Spirit-filled people talk about God because they're rejoicing in God, not because everything about their life is so wonderful, but because the Spirit of God is making greater realities shine for them.

II. You Demand Less from Other People and Are More Willing to Yield – Because You're Becoming More Like Your Savior

Ephesians 5:21 "submitting to one another in the fear of Christ."

Some people demand their 'rights' so much because they're looking to earthly relationships to fill their deepest needs. A person like this doesn't know God very well and they're not filled with the Spirit.

A person filled with the Spirit demands less from others and is more willing to yield and give up their own rights because they're becoming more like Jesus. **Philippians 2:1-8** shows us what this looks like.

They're more aware of God's faithfulness to them than the failures of those around them. They go into every situation with their hand out because the Spirit gives them eyes to look for ways to meet the needs of others.

In **Ephesians 5:21-6:9** Paul takes this characteristic of being filled with the Spirit so that you demand less of others and starts walking it out in some of our closest relationships.

God never thought you could do marriage in your own power, parent in your own power, or glorify Him in the workplace in your own power. When you're filled with His Spirit, you can do these supernatural things.

III. You Give Thanks in All Things Because You're Learning How Trustworthy Your Savior Is

Ephesians 5:20 "Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

In the Bible the word 'name' means your character. When you're filled with the Holy Spirit, He keeps glorifying Jesus and showing you more of who He is and what He does.

You find refuge in who He is and what He does and you find joy in who He is and what He does, so that you're content with less than perfect circumstances because you're so grateful that you're biggest problem has been solved.

Romans 8:22-32 describes what a Spirit-filled Christian looks like even in the midst of sorrow or the hard things in life.